



Utah State Board of Education

# Family & Community News

## In this article you will find:

- Reminders about upcoming events.
- Information on upcoming projects.
- Resources that can be shared with parents.
- Indicator 8 parent engagement survey preparation tips.

### Reminder

Join me virtually on Friday, September 15, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. for our first Family and Community Engagement Community of Practice! You can right-click on the date for the Zoom link to attend. While this is an open-door meeting, it is recommended that you attend the full time to get the most out of this



#### Who Participates?

Meeting the state's goal of having at least 70% of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students reading on grade level by 2027 will require all stakeholders—including families, community members, teachers, and school leaders—to take an active role in providing systematic, explicit foundational literacy instruction for students.

By design, this project will equip school-based community coordinators with the knowledge, skills, and resources to effectively engage families and school communities in literacy development efforts.

Participation in this project is totally optional. No LEA, school, or family member is required to participate.

By intentionally focusing on training school-based community coordinators and providing resources that can be used by coordinators and families, we increase the project's reach and establish knowledge and practices that will continue long after the project ends.

On September 7, 2023, board members from the Utah State Board of Education approved the next step in SB127's goal of ensuring all Utah 3rd graders are proficient readers by 2027: The Community Engagement and Science of Reading Coordination Services project.

virtual meet and greet.

I am looking forward to connecting with you!

Please make sure to save the dates for October 20, November 17, and December 1, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. for future Community of Practice sessions!

If you are unable to attend but would like to share a topic or question, please email me with the subject line COP TOPIC to [susie.estrada@schools.utah.gov](mailto:susie.estrada@schools.utah.gov).

Thank you!

We will make this a great year for family and community engagement!

The USBE will partner with MGT of America to provide direct services to up to 250 LEAs over the course of the four-year project. The USBE will work closely with MGT's team to provide coaching on the science of reading and effective community engagement, assess the needs of participating schools' community-school infrastructure, and provide associated supports focused on strengthening literacy for Utah children at no cost to the LEA.

We will host an information session on October 12, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. [Register here to attend](#). This session will also be recorded for folks who are unable to attend.



Family engagement is not just about professionals at a school reaching out to families. Real family engagement also involves families reaching out to school professionals as well.

To ensure that families understand their role in their child's education it is important to establish a clear policy that sets forward clear and realistic expectations that reflect your school's priorities. Remember, in-person events support family engagement but they are not all-encompassing of what family engagement is.

Click here for a resource from Learning Heroes that you can share with your families. The focus here is on the tools themselves so you can share this electronically or print and share it with families as well. Pro tip: Do both to increase accessibility for families! For families who have limited or no experience in being the ones to engage schools, specific strategies and examples are necessary to help guide them as they grow into their roles.

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## Family Networking Opportunities for Culturally Responsive Engagement

What does it mean to be culturally responsive? Culture comes in a wide variety of ways including the neighborhoods we've grown up in, our heritage, our religious affiliation, the sports team we cheer for, and even the hobbies that we engage in. Culture can even be generational! Engaging with others as professionals often requires that we acknowledge our positionality and those of others. This can seem like a lot of work especially when our professional and lived experiences have informed what we view as the best way to meet the needs of our students and families.

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation has put together this resource to help guide our practice through a culturally responsive lens. [Click here for a direct link to this resource](#) which includes access to additional blogs to help guide your family and community engagement strategies.

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Reminder

We will be hosting a one-day training at the Columbus Community Center located at 2530 500 East, South Salt Lake, UT (see image of the front entrance below). There is a larger parking lot in the back which also has an entrance option. The room is closest to the front doors.

[To register click here.](#) Attendees will be formally invited on Monday, September 11, 2023.



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## **It's a wrap for the Indicator 8 2023 survey administration!**

If your LEA participated in the Indicator 8 parent engagement survey this year, we have begun the process of compiling the data for an LEA report. Thank you for your hard work in promoting survey completion to your families!

### **Indicator 8 Survey Preparation**

Our four largest LEAs receive the Indicator 8 survey every year. Smaller LEAs receive the survey every other year. For LEAs with fewer than 100 special education students, all of your families will receive this survey. For LEAs with larger groups of students receiving special education services, a sample size will be used to administer the survey.

Despite the survey not being administered until the Spring. You can start preparing now!

- Start letting your families know that they will receive this survey in the spring via e-mail.
  - Let them know that you will notify them when the survey has gone out so they can check their inbox and junk mail.
  - Explain that this survey is anonymous.
- Confirm that you have their current or best email and physical address.
- Make sure that your SIS is up to date with your families information.
- Share the indicator 8 hotline number with them. The phone number is: 801-538-7870

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## Do you have something you want to celebrate?

Email: [susie.estrada@schools.utah.gov](mailto:susie.estrada@schools.utah.gov)

Include a description of your celebration and a picture of what would best represent your celebration. If the picture is of a person, a media release form is required and will be supplied upon request.

